GLOSSARY

Antisepsis Destruction of vegetative forms of microorganisms but not their

permanent forms

Biosafety Protect laboratory personnel and the environment from

accidental exposure to or release of potentially hazardous agents

Biosecurity Protect biological agents against theft by those who intend to

cause deliberate exposure through malicious use

Contemporary In existence now; in current circulation

Contamination Introduction of microorganisms into tissues or sterile materials

Decontamination Disinfection or sterilization of infected articles to make them

suitable for use

Disinfection Selective elimination of certain undesirable microorganisms in

order to prevent their transmission

Effluent Liquid waste discharged from a sewage system, factory, nuclear

power station, or other industrial plant

Germicide Any antimicrobial chemical agent used for disinfection,

antisepsis or sterilization – regardless of whether is action is microbicidal or microbistatic; any microbicidal disinfectant,

antiseptic or sterilant

Sterilization Complete killing of all microorganisms

Vector An organism such as a mosquito or tick that transmits disease-

causing microorganisms from infected individuals to other

persons, or from infected animals to human beings

Zoonosis A disease that can be transmitted from animals to humans